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OBITUARY.

WE regret to record the death, on the 21st November last, of Mr. James Marshall, actuary of the Jamaica Mutual Life Assurance Company. In vol. iv., p. 39, of this *Magazine*, will be found an interesting notice by Mr. Marshall on the mortality of Europeans residing in Jamaica, with tables recommended by him to be used for the purposes of life assurance in the island. The original observations on the subject are however of little value at present, and Mr. Marshall was engaged in collecting more authentic data. With this view he had recently published an elaborate work; and we are sorry to hear, by a letter from his friend Dr. Dunn to Mr. A. G. Finlaison, that his "his decease must be mainly attributable to his excessive application and labour in getting up his work." He adds, "I frequently cautioned him that when the excitement was over a reaction would take place, and I regret to say it has done so fatally. His disease was *angina pectoris*, symptoms of which must have presented themselves some time back; but I suppose his mind was so preoccupied with his publication that he paid no attention to them. . . . Mr. Marshall's outlay in getting up his work has been at least £200 and upwards." He is said to have left a widow and nine children (almost all very young), in very indifferent circumstances.

INSTITUTE OF ACTUARIES.

AT the examinations for the present year, eighteen candidates have presented themselves; nine for the first or matriculation examination, two for the second, and seven for the third. We are happy to say that the degrees of proficiency exhibited were very satisfactory. The names of the candidates and the order of merit will appear in the next Number of the *Journal*; meanwhile we publish, for the benefit of those who may have hereafter to undergo the ordeal, the questions for the third year, which it will be remembered complete the course.

THIRD YEAR'S EXAMINATION.

1. Having such data as the registers of an Assurance Company afford, describe the method of determining the relative numbers of living and dying at each year of age, and of expressing the resulting annual mortality.

2. Describe briefly the methods adopted by Messrs. Milne, Davies, and Gompertz, for graduating actual rates of mortality for the purposes of tabulation.

3. What may be considered the comparative advantages and disadvantages of these methods?

4. What are the effects upon a table of annual premiums for single and joint lives, of assuming a low rate of interest without marginal addition, and of a high rate with a marginal addition, made in a constant geometrical or arithmetical proportion?

5. Illustrate the effects resulting from the use of tables so constructed in making valuations.